

WHOLE NO. 9214.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1861.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

The President's Message and the Reports of the Departments.

Proposed Ship Canal Between Lake Erie and Lake Michigan.

Important Order in Regard to the Observance of the Sabbath.

THE NAVIGATION OF THE POTOMAC.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1, 1861.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

Assuming that there will be a quorum present in each House to-morrow, it is not probable that the President will communicate his Message before one o'clock, owing to the necessary preliminaries attending the commencement of a session of Congress.

The reports of the Secretaries of War, the Navy and the Interior, and of the Postmaster General, will accompany the Message. That of the Secretary of the Treasury will not be sent in until Tuesday or Wednesday.

As no advance copies of the President's Message have been transmitted, it will be telegraphed.

PROPOSED SHIP CANAL BETWEEN LAKE ERIE AND LAKE MICHIGAN.

Parties are now here representing large European and American interests, urging upon government the expediency of constructing a ship canal between Lake Erie and Lake Michigan. They look to the wealthy State of New York to widen and deepen its great canal, and to the State of Illinois to enlarge its canal, so that vessels may be laden, according to their theory, nine months of the year on the Mississippi and discharged on the Hudson. It is asserted that by the time the canal could be completed, the government would at once upon the project, the productions of the West would swell vastly beyond their present dimensions, and give to the country great additional resources in the exchange of products for the staples and manufactures of Europe.

IMPORTANT ORDER IN REGARD TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH.

The following general order was first published to-day, although dated the 27th ult. It has been delayed in the government printing establishment for the want of some force in the management of business.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 48.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, WASHINGTON, Nov. 27, 1861.

The Sunday morning commencing inspections prescribed by article thirty, Revised Army Regulations, will hereafter be made at eight o'clock A. M. Congress having by law provided for the employment of chaplains for the army, it is no longer necessary that the General commanding directs, that no officer place obstacles in the way of a proper exercise of the functions of their office. It is therefore ordered that, in future, the Sunday morning services will commence at eleven o'clock, unless manifest military reasons prevent. Commanding officers will see that the chaplains, with their families, are properly accommodated, when not on guard or other important duty requiring their constant attention, have the opportunity of attending them at stated divine services.

The second article of War earnestly recommends all officers and soldiers diligently to attend divine service, and attaches a penalty for irreverent behavior while at the place of worship.

Chaplains at all times be permitted to visit the camps, quarters and the limits of the limits of the commands to which they are attached, to hold free and uninterrupted intercourse with the officers and soldiers of their commands, and to be permitted to appear at reviews or inspections, as it is believed their time and services may be more profitably employed elsewhere.

It is enjoined upon all persons connected with the army to preserve at all times a respectful deportment towards chaplains, and to give them a hearty co-operation in their efforts to promote and improve the moral condition of the army.

By command of Major General McCLELLAN, S. WILLIAMS, Assistant Adjutant General.

A RECOGNITION.

A reconnaissance was made to-day from General Fitz John Porter's division for force, but up to the hour of ten o'clock to-night the force, which was not large, had not met the enemy, according to report at the headquarters of General McClellan.

QUITS ALONG THE LINES.

All is quiet along the lines to-night is the report at headquarters.

RUNNING THE BLOCKADE OF THE POTOMAC.

The steamer Reliance came up to the Navy Yard late this afternoon. Acting Master Hannum reports that at half-past seven this morning all the rebel batteries at Shipping Point opened fire on a wood laden schooner. About forty rounds were fired, but only one took effect, cutting away the jib bays, which brought the jib down by the run. The wind was fair at the time, but the tide being ebb, the schooner was unable to prevent her from continuing on her course. She passed the batteries without further damage, and was arrived safely at Washington. The batteries on the Maryland shore kept up on both sides. Several of the enemy's shells were observed to burst about half a mile over on the Maryland shore. During the cannonade the Reliance went down part of the way to ascertain what the rebels were firing at, but before she came within range the firing had ceased. The name of the schooner has not been ascertained.

The Jacob Bell, Lieutenant McCrea commanding, left the Navy Yard this morning and went down the river to join the flotilla. The Bell was damaged some weeks ago by collision with the Island Belle. She has been thoroughly repaired and refitted. The Yankee is rapidly progressing in her refit.

LETTER FROM GEORGE D. PRENTICE.

A letter has been received here from George D. Prentice, Esq., dated Nov. 26, 1861, in which he states that he had nothing to do with the article in the Louisville Journal, censuring the speech made by Secretary Cameron at the dinner party lately given by Colonel Forney in honor of Mr. Prentice. The entire article in the Journal was a misrepresentation of the speech, sent by some person without the knowledge of Mr. Prentice. Secretary Cameron's opinions upon the subject are the same as those expressed in his instructions to Generals Butler and Sherman, and it is understood that they will be reiterated in his annual report to the President.

DIFFICULTY OF TRANSPORTING HEAVY GUNS.

The Ordnance Department of the Navy finds considerable difficulty in getting transportation for the heavy guns from point to point, and among other agents who have declined to assist in this matter are J. & N. Briggs, of the Swift Sine line.

THE PRIVATEER HUNTER.

The latest official intelligence concerning the whereabouts of the privateer Sumter is from the Consul at Paramaribo, in a letter dated October 17. He had been informed that the ship was on an island about thirty miles to the westward of Curacao, and the crew cruising about in their boats.

ARMY MOVEMENTS.

The headquarters of the Third Regiment of artillery are ordered to Fort Trumbull, Connecticut. Colonel Yates takes command of the regiment.

First Lieutenant Lawrence Lip, Adjutant of the regiment, has been offered the position of Chief Aid de Camp to General Sumner. Lieutenant Lip has just returned from California, where he served with distinction on the staff of General Keyes in the Indian wars, and afterwards with Reynolds' (formerly Irish) battery.

The headquarters of the Fourth artillery are ordered to Fort Washington, Colonel Merchant commanding.

Lieutenant Vines, Topographical Engineer, recently on duty in California, has sent in his resignation from that place, and left the coast.

Doctor Herndon, who arrived from California ten days ago, has also tendered his resignation to the government.

THE VAN WYCK INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.

The Van Wyck Committee have terminated their sitting, making a cumbersome printed volume as large as the Sherman Naval Committee report, but of much less importance and interest. In fact the committee have been on a sort of summer and fall pleasure excursion over the country, producing little or nothing of value, and perhaps it would be well enough to append a sequel to the report before Congress act on it—containing the trial

the committee have made, their hotel and other bills of expense. Some interesting items of economy might turn up. The latter will undoubtedly be called for by resolutions.

SUPPER TO EX-GOVERNOR UZZIHI.

Ladislav Uzzihai, ex-Governor of Comoro, Hungary, recently appointed United States Consul to Ancona, Italy, leaves Washington for his destination to-morrow. His friends gave him a farewell supper this evening.

APPROPRIATE DISPOSAL OF REBEL PORTRAITS.

The trait of ex-President John Tyler, rebel, and the bust of James L. Orr, rebel co-speaker of the House, which were ordered in July last by Vice President Hann and Speaker Grow to be removed from the rotunda of the Capitol and from the Speaker's room of the House, have turned up among the fossil remains of traitorous and venomous reptiles and bad animals in the Smithsonian Institute. Highly appropriate.

MOVEMENTS OF THE REBEL PICKETS.

Within a week past the rebel pickets have made their appearance at Vienna, which is five miles beyond Lewisville, and also at Platt Hill, which overlooks Fairfax County. They show no disposition to attack our men. They appear at these points during the day and retire at night.

Captain Mott, of General Hancock's division, had his pickets surprised by the appearance of a party of rebel cavalry, while he was engaged on Saturday afternoon at a house a mile and a half beyond Lewisville, near the Leesburg turnpike. Captain Mott, however, escaped, without losing any of his men.

DEPARTURE OF GENERAL BANKS.

General Banks, accompanied by one of his staff, left at noon to-day for his headquarters at Jarrattsville. His conveyance was a plain covered wagon, drawn by four mules, with a common but substantial harness on each animal.

FIRING ON UNION PICKETS.

Last night and Friday night shots were fired at our pickets by some one or two persons at Blueensburg. The villains will not long escape the vigilance of our troops in that locality.

MOVEMENTS OF BEN. McCULLOCH AND GENERAL PRICE—KANSAS TO BE MADE A FIELD OF OPERATIONS—DEPRECIATIONS OF THE REBELS, &c.

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At the latest accounts the rebels under General Price were still moving northward.

PROCLAMATION OF GENERAL PRICE.

The following is a proclamation from General Price, issued at Neosho, Mo., bearing no date.

FELLOW CITIZENS—In the month of June last I was called to the command of a handful of Missourians, who nobly gave up home and country to oppose, in that gloomy hour, the cause of slave-baiting, and to drive the most cruel and cruel despots known among civilized men. When peace and protection could no longer be enjoyed at the price of liberty and honor, I called upon my countrymen to follow me, and to drive the most cruel and cruel despots known among civilized men. When peace and protection could no longer be enjoyed at the price of liberty and honor, I called upon my countrymen to follow me, and to drive the most cruel and cruel despots known among civilized men.

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thirty thousand heroes—gallant, unconquerable Southern men—we await your coming.

STERLING G. PRICE, Major General Commanding.

RELLA, Mo., Nov. 30, 1861.

A scout who has followed the army of the rebels since the evacuation of Springfield, came in yesterday. He reports the rebels some 15,000 strong, moving north in three divisions. The right wing, 6,000 strong, commanded by General McBride, resting on Stockton, Cedar county. The left wing held position near Nevada, Vernon county, under command of Gen. Rains, with 4,000 men. Gen. Price, with 5,000 men, commanded the centre, and was near Monticello, Vernon county.

These figures were obtained from the Quartermaster of the rebel force by our scout.

General Price's intention is to march into Kansas, and make that State the field of his operations. His spies report to him that General Lane is at Fort Scott, with 5,000 men. Price will evade the latter and pass into Kansas, at or near Butler, Bates county.

The march was taken up on the 26th ult.

Colonel Clarkson, commanding the rear of the rebel army, left Greenfield on Sunday last.

General Price issued an order to McCulloch to follow him, which the latter disregarded, and is now moving towards Arkansas to aid in winter quarters.

The rebels are thinly clad and poorly fed, and evince a disposition to disband and seek their homes.

Fifty of Freeman's marauders were at Steelville, breaking open stores and houses, and helping themselves to what they could find. Freeman himself is reported in that vicinity.

Major Joren with 1,000 cavalry left here yesterday, with a view of getting South of Freeman and cutting off his retreat.

The weather is exceedingly fresh. On Friday we had a slight fall of snow.

Parties from the West say that the country between Lexington is almost deserted, the men having gone to join Price, or attaching themselves to the various commands of his officers throughout that region.

Jennison's men are in Jackson county devastating the country, and various parties of armed rebels have gone into that section with the avowed purpose of driving them out.

General Price's proclamation has been circulating in the river country, and will doubtless induce large numbers to join the rebel army.

My informant says that for a distance of sixty miles, which was travelled yesterday and to-day, they met only one man on the road.

THE REBEL STEAMER NASHVILLE.

Her Arrival at Southampton, England—The Burning of the Ship Harvey Birch—Sketches of the Nashville, Harvey Birch and Captain Pegram, &c., &c., &c.

We have already published the news, by the arrival of the steamship City of Baltimore of Cape Race, that the rebel steamer Nashville had arrived at Southampton, England, on the 21st of November, having on board the captain and crew of the American ship Harvey Birch, which vessel the Nashville fell in with on the 19th ult., while at sea, and burned to the water's edge, remaining by to sea her cowardly work was properly executed.

Captain Nelson, of the Harvey Birch, and all of them, with the exception of the captain, were placed in irons until they arrived in England, when they were permitted to go at large. The probable reason of the burning of the Harvey Birch is that she was in ballast, and consequently hardly worth running the risk of sending her with a prize crew to some Southern port.

The Nashville will, it is stated, remain at Southampton to refit, when she will no doubt again take to the ocean in search of merchantmen, or attempt to run the blockade to the coast of America. As every thing relating to the movements of the rebel vessels is watched closely by the public, we append a sketch of the Nashville, Harvey Birch and Capt. Pegram.

THE STEAMER NASHVILLE.

The name of the steamer Nashville has become so familiar to the public as that of the Sumter, on account of the time when it was stated she had run the blockade at Charleston, having on board the rebel minister Seward and Mr. Three of our best steamers were instantly dispatched to pursue the Nashville, and as a result, she was captured. She was not the vessel honored by her presence. Her next appearance was her arrival at Bermuda, West Indies, on the morning of October 30, she having run the blockade at Charleston on the 26th of October. Upon her arrival at Bermuda Captain Pegram applied to the local authorities for a supply of coal; but they declined to furnish it, and the Nashville was obliged to go to the harbor of St. George's, where she obtained a supply from private sources, and sailed for England. While at the West Indies she kept her movements a strict secret. It was thought that she had on board one or two rebel agents or commissioners, but it proved not to be the case. She arrived at Southampton on the 21st of November, having on board the officer and crew of the ship Harvey Birch, which she burned at sea on the 19th ult.

The Nashville was formerly used as a packet between this city and Charleston, and belonged to Spofford, Tilton & Co. of this city. She was seized by the rebels and converted into a vessel of war, although Captain Pegram, according to the account of Captain Nelson, of the Harvey Birch, states that he holds no commission from the rebel government, and insists also that the vessel is not a privateer. She was built in this city in the year 1855, is rated 22, and is 1,220 tons burthen.

SKETCH OF CAPTAIN PEGRAM.

Captain Robert B. Pegram, commander of the rebel steamer Nashville, was formerly attached to the United States Navy, in which he held the position of Lieutenant. He was in Virginia, and appointed from that State. His original entry into the navy was in the month of February, 1829. His total sea service was about seventeen years—on shore about eight years, and the balance of his time was unemployed. He was in the navy nearly thirty-two years. He has been lately engaged on the coast survey. He, too, like Hollins and others, turned his back to the flag under which he had served for a long period at the breaking out of the present rebellion. Before this, as a private citizen, he had been in the respect of the public at large and of his fellow officers, by the good qualities he had always shown and his cool courage. He had rendered himself popular by his connection with the affair of the Water Witch, in the Potomac, when his coolness and daring secured for him the thanks of the British Admiralty, and a handsome sword from his native State.

Up to the present time he has done nothing to bring him prominently before the people, with the exception of the affair at Sewall's Point, where he commanded the gun that partly disabled the steamer Harriet Lane. Captain Pegram is not alone in the rebel service; he has relatives in high position there. His nephew, John Pegram, a graduate of West Point, and for a long time in the service of the United States, holds now the position of a colonel in the rebel army, and in the late engagement at Laurel Hill, Western Virginia, was taken prisoner by the Union troops.

THE SHIP HARVEY BIRCH.

The Harvey Birch was a ship of nearly 1,500 tons, built there, drawing twenty-two feet of water. She was built in 1854, at Mystic, Conn., and was owned in this city. She was one hundred and ninety-six feet long, forty feet wide and twenty feet deep. She was a fine vessel, rating A1, and copper and iron fastened throughout. She was installed in May, 1859, and was surveyed in this city in February, 1860. She sailed from New York for the 19th of September for Havre, and was bound back, in ballast, when she was burned. Her value is estimated now by the Board of Underwriters at \$75,000, although she cost to build \$102,000. She was owned by Messrs. J. H. Brower & Co., of this city, and was not insured. She was formerly engaged in the trade between this port and San Francisco.

NEWS FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 1, 1861.

The Old Point has arrived. There is no news from the rebels.

The S. R. Spaulding had arrived from Hatteras. She reports that several rebel gunboats were seen in a night, but none regularly brought to its notice by bill or joint resolution.

ASSEMBLING OF CONGRESS TO-DAY.

The President's Message—The Reports from the Departments—What Will Congress Have to Do?

Re., Re., Re.

To-day being the first Monday in December, the Congress of the United States meets in the Capitol at Washington. There will not be the usual delay and difficulty in organizing, for at the special session which met in July last all these preliminaries were disposed of.

Galusha A. Grow will call the House to order as Speaker, and the President of the Senate will call the Senate to order as President of the Senate, who is by the constitution, ex-officio President of the Senate. The first business of both houses will be the adoption of a concurrent resolution directing the appointment of a joint committee to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that the two houses of Congress are in session and are ready to receive any communication he may have to make them.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The customary report of each joint committee is that they have waited upon the President of the United States, and have been requested by him to inform their respective houses that he will send to them at a certain time a message. This is presented by his private secretary, and is immediately read in both houses. We have no definite information as to whether the Message and accompanying documents will be presented to-day, but we presume that such will be the case.

Of course it is impossible for us to give at this time a synopsis of the State documents which will be looked for and read throughout the country with the greatest interest. We expect to be able to publish it in full in one of our evening editions to-day. We may safely assume, however, that Mr. Lincoln will take in at the same view of our internal difficulties which he took in his inaugural and in his Message at the special session. That is, he will adhere to his determination to crush the rebellion at all costs and at every sacrifice. It is the same view to preserve inviolate, so far as may be, the constitutional rights of the States and the system of government as established by its founders. We know that strong efforts have been made, and are being made, by radical fanatical men, to cause him to deviate from this, the only safe and practical course; but his character for honesty and firmness is the highest evidence we desire of the futility of all such efforts.

As to our foreign relations, there will be great anxiety to learn his views and recommendations in reference to the triumphant expedition against Mexico, and also in reference to the hearing of the British steamer Trent by the San Jacinto, and the arrest and taking therefrom of Messrs. Mason and Seward and their secretaries.

On the latter subject there can be but little doubt as to the views of the administration; but in regard to the former we have no facts from which to form any definite opinion. Both are very important matters, and will no doubt form prominent points of discussion in the Message. Besides the conduct of the war, and the questions of Mexico and the Trent, we do not suppose that the Message will contain any length to other subjects of minor consideration, or that it will recommend any general legislation beyond what is connected with the carrying on of the government.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

The strongest interest is manifested in the forthcoming report of the Secretary of War, which is to be sent in with the Message as one of the accompanying documents. There are now 600,000 Union troops under arms, and the management, subsistence and practical direction of this army is a most important and responsible duty. It is the duty of the Secretary of War to report to the President and Congress the progress of the war, and the state of the army, and to recommend such measures as may be necessary for the carrying on of the war, and the management of the army.

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